

Jeff Le Fouler, F6AOJ

You never know what will happen when talented engineering experience and a DXer's enthusiasm are mixed together, but a lovely recipe they sometimes make. And coming from a country with a heritage and passion for fine taste, here's a tale of how one contest chef put the finishing touches on a finely crafted station and then finished off most of the national competition at the same time.

Jeff Le Fouler, F6AOJ, is a 43-year-old DXaholic who loves it all. Low frequencies, high frequencies the tropics, the antarctic, single op, multiop, single band, all band, normal call, special call, conventional design and experimental twist—he could only be a single man to get all that done. Ah, to be single in Paris in the spring...

He's enjoyed a wide-ranging DX career that began two decades ago and found its way through F1AOS, F6KAW, (1968, 72 and 82), FMØGDE (Martinique, 1980), FB8YD (French Antarctic Territory, 1975), VK3BAS (1976), and the current F6AOJ. And not many dull moments through the past two solar cycles resulted in DXCC totals of 309/313, 5BWAZ 190/193, and a band-countries summary board that looks like this:

Band	160	80	40	20	15	10
Worked	78	176	233	298	288	256
Confirmed	61	157	211	283	270	238

Awards, you ask? Besides the Worked All Post Offices Award (WAPOA), Jeff borders the family portrait with 5BDXCC and lots of contest certificates (like last year's CQWW SSB top French single-op score of 2,022,272). His paper collection would need a bigger wall if he hadn't spent so much time abroad, like the year in Antarctica at the French Dumontdurville satellite tracking station, and trips to GC5 with F6KAW club-station pals, and the 50 different countries and seven continents he's toured by bus. Those travels earned him the all-time Ralph Kramden award!

The many years and miles have given 'AOJ an A-okay view of contesting in general. Jeff pursues it for the constant personal challenge, undertakes it with short naps and a few light meals, and focuses it towards favorite 15- and 40-meter bands in a 30- to 35-hour effort.

And have you ever wondered why there are no multi-multi contest efforts from France? Simply put, it's illegal.

Regardless, there's still plenty to do in radio, even between those exhausting weekends. Perfect for a creative design engineer with an isolated acre only 30 minutes from downtown Paris. Jeff's primary rig is a TS-940S and a home-brew



F6AOJ has worked many a band-country and contest from this capable operating position.

amplifier, and the backup is a Drake C line driving an SB-200. And opening DX doors for both is a Hewlett-Packard Vectra 286AT computer which connects F6AOJ to the Paris PacketCluster system.

It's debatable as to whether Jeff needs that kind of help, though. All you have to do is look outside to see what little sunlight gets

through the custom-built antenna screen. Four towers with lots of monobanders, low-band wire antennas, elevated verticals and remotely steerable Beverages. No doubt about it—technically proficient contesters like Jeff are never satisfied. But their dissatisfaction is probably the best thing that's ever happened to ham radio!